

CLAIMS

1. A method for allocating one of a plurality of communication resources of communication networks in which information is transferred between a first station and one or more second stations, said method comprising the step of allocating one of said communication resources based on the quantity of information to be transferred.
2. A method as in claim 1, wherein information is transferred in the form of at least one packet and the quantity of information to be transferred is taken to be the size of the at least one packet.
3. A method as in claim 1 or 2, wherein the communication resources allocated are radio communication channels.
4. A method as in claim 3, wherein the channels comprise a common communication channel between the first station and a plurality of second stations, and a dedicated communication channel between the first and one of said second stations.
5. A method as in any of claims 2-4, wherein if the at least one packet to be transferred is less than a predetermined size, then a common communication channel is allocated for transfer of the at least one data packet between the first and second stations.
6. A method as in any of claims 2-4, wherein if the at least one packet to be transferred is less than a predetermined size, and subsequent packet generation actions cannot be predicted, then a common communication channel is allocated for transfer of the at least one data packet between the first and second stations.
7. A method as in any of claims 2-6, wherein if the at least one packet to be transferred is greater than a predetermined

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size, then a dedicated communication channel is allocated for the transfer of the at least one data packet between the first and second stations.

8. A method as in any of claims 2-7, wherein the at least one packet to be transferred comprises a computer generated data file; a zip file; an email file; video data and/or speech data.

9. A method as in any of claims 2-8, wherein the at least one packet to be transferred comprises two or more associated packets.

10. A method as in claim 9, wherein the combined size of the two or more associated packets is taken into account in said allocating step.

11. A method as in any of claims 4-10, wherein the at least one packet to be transferred is allocated a dedicated channel if said dedicated channel is already established.

12. A method as in any preceding claim, wherein communications between said first and second stations use a code division multiple access system.

13. A method as in any preceding claim, wherein said allocating step is carried out by a radio network controller.

14. A method as in any of claims 2-13, wherein information relating to the size of the at least one packet to be transferred is provided to a network element performing the allocating step.

15. A method as in claim 14, wherein information relating to the size of the at least one packet is transferred as a service primitive parameter.

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16. A method as in claim 14 or 15, wherein information relating to the size of the at least one packet is transferred as an information element of a protocol data unit.

17. A method as in claim 14, 15 or 16, wherein information relating to the size of the at least one packet is transferred both as a service primitive parameter and as an information element of a protocol data unit.

18. A method as in claim 14, wherein the at least one packet to be transferred comprises information relating to its size or combined size.

19. A method as in claim 18, wherein a network element performing the allocating step determines the size of the at least one packet to be transferred.

20. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein one of said first and second stations is a base station.

21. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein one of said first and second stations is a mobile station.

22. A method as in any preceding claim performed in a radio communications network.

23. A method according to any of claims 2-22, wherein a packet to be transferred comprises a plurality of component parts.

24. A network element for allocating one of a plurality of communication resources of communication networks in which information is transferred between a first station and one or more second stations, said element comprising means for allocating one of said communication resources based on the quantity of information to be transferred.

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25. A method for allocating communication resources of communication networks in which information is transferred between a first station and one or more second stations in the form of packets, said method comprising the step of allocating a communication resource based on the size of the at least one packet to be transferred.